

March 12, 2001

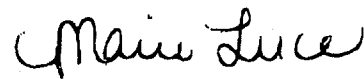
US Food and Drug Administration  
Dockets Management Branch  
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061  
Rockville, MD 20852

Dear Sir or Madam:

I am writing to urge that you grant our petition to prohibit the slaughter of downed animals – docket number 98P-0151/CP1. Animals that are too sick to stand should not be allowed to enter the human food chain. It is impossible to move downed animals humanely so they are typically pushed with tractors or dragged with chains – inhumane processes which cause injuries ranging from bruises and abrasions to broken bones and torn ligaments. Downed animals comprise a very small percentage of animals slaughtered and prohibiting their marketing will cause no undue economic hardship.

Industry experts have estimated that 90% of downed animals can be prevented with better care and handling. Removing the market for downed animals will provide an incentive to industry to prevent downed animals in the first place.

Sincerely,



Marie Luce

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